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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Fourth session
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Agenda Item 4 (c)
Ongoing priorities and themes: Follow-up to previous special themes: "Indigenous children and youth" (2003) and "Indigenous women" (2004)

Draft recommendations submitted by Rapporteur

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues emphasizes the unique contributions made by indigenous women within their families, communities and nations and at the international level in terms of possessing and transmitting intergenerationally a wealth of traditional knowledge on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable environment management.

2. At the same time, the Permanent Forum expresses concern that indigenous women continue to be one of the most marginalized groups in many countries, being victims of serious acts of discrimination and flagrant violations of their fundamental human rights. In addition, globalization presents new challenges and problems for indigenous women in many parts of the world.

3. The Permanent Forum recommends to the United Nations system and States to implement the recommendations on indigenous women made in the report on its third session in the development of programmes focused on the goals of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People[1] guaranteeing the involvement of indigenous women.

4. The Permanent Forum is pleased to take note of the goals accomplished until now by the Task Force on Indigenous Women, reported to the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality at its annual session in February 2005.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23* (E/2004/43-E/C.19/2004/23), paras. 3, 5, 13 (a) and (d), 14 (d), 31, 42 (c), 43 (a) and (b), 46, 63, 65, 87, 89 (a), (b), (g), (i) and (j).

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Recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fourth session

5. **The Forum recognizes that:**

(a) Gender equality has a central role in development policy with a focus on poverty reduction, human rights and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular economic, social, sexual and reproductive health and rights, including good governance and democratic institutions, and to the creation of a world where people live free from fear and want, in dignity and peace.

(b) The elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education requires an improvement in access, continuity, quality, and management of women's education at all levels with cultural relevance.

Recommendations to Member States

Participation

6. Improve and increase indigenous women's economic and social conditions through:

(a) Expansion of employment opportunities;

(b) Promotion of the professionalization of their traditional skills, arts and crafts;

(c) Access to resources, including microcredit, new technologies and agricultural input;

(d) Support the regional meetings of indigenous women and organize training on international, regional and national mechanisms.

7. Adopt measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Ensure that indigenous women's expertise is reflected in all national and international development strategies and that indigenous women, in consultation with their communities and organizations, are part of the formulation and decision-making processes of sustainable development initiatives.

Capacity-building

9. Develop and strengthen structures and mechanisms for the advancement of indigenous women within the wider agenda for the advancement of women, clearly define their mandate by taking into account the holistic and cross-cutting subjects specific to indigenous women, allocate appropriate resources to those institutions, and provide support from the national political leadership of local and community structures.

10. Include relevant information on the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women by engaging indigenous organizations in the reporting process to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights bodies.

11. Establish a fund for indigenous women to support capacity-building and their participation in meetings at the international, regional and national levels.

12. Capacity-building efforts should explore and encourage the cooperation of academia and the private sector.

13. Create indigenous ombudsmen offices especially for indigenous women, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous women in order to protect the human rights of the indigenous peoples.

14. Foster the training of indigenous women in order to gain leadership skills to become community advocates and defenders for indigenous women's rights to achieve gender equity.

15. Combat, within an appropriate legal framework, violence against women, including forced prostitution and trafficking of women and girls as well as domestic violence.

Access

16. Increase and improve the access of indigenous women to education and skills training, to formal and non-formal education. Intercultural and bilingual or multilingual educational programmes will be essential components of an educational system which will lead to equitable educational outcomes.

17. Reinforce the investments in population and reproductive health which is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals — to reduce poverty, achieve universal primary education, improve maternal and child health, curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, promote gender equality, ensure sustainable development, and establish a strong partnership for development.

Recommendations to the United Nations system

18. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) regional office in Mexico with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the creation of a regional inter-agency group on indigenous women, and recommends continuing support for indigenous women's issues and replication of the experience in other regions of the world.

19. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and other relevant United Nations agencies should develop methodologies and strategies to research the underlying causes of "feminization" and "indigenization" of poverty, and develop programmes which effectively address these underlying causes. Systematic needs assessment for indigenous women and their involvement in all phases of the programme cycle should be ensured.

20. In their regular human development and poverty reports, UNDP, the World Bank and other relevant agencies should include disaggregated data, based on indigenous peoples' indicators of poverty, on the poverty situation of indigenous men and women.

21. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Organization for Migration should convene a workshop on the

theme "Migration of indigenous women" in order to highlight the urgency and scale of the issue.

22. UNFPA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and other relevant United Nations agencies should collect data on the situation of indigenous women living in conflict areas.

23. Special rapporteurs, as well as other mechanisms relevant to the Commission on Human Rights should conduct specific studies on the role of indigenous women in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and sustainable development, taking into account actual and potential roles and training of indigenous women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including gender analysis of peace accords and other peace processes, and differences in the perspectives and methods of indigenous women and men.

24. The Permanent Forum recommends to UNIFEM, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and UNDP to support the first world market of indigenous women art makers to be held in Mexico in April 2006, promoted by indigenous peoples from the north of Mexico.

25. Request the Commission on Human Rights to support the request that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women conduct a workshop/study on violence against indigenous women in coordination with the Permanent Forum and to report on progress at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum.